

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a detergent particle comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a surfactant material in the form of a paste or liquid and dry starting detergent materials;
- b) blending said surfactant material and said dry starting detergent materials to form a particle core;
- c) passing said particle core to a coating mixer;
- d) providing an aqueous coating solution or slurry comprising water and a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material to said coating mixer;
- e) at least partially coating said particle core in said coating mixer to form a detergent particle; and
- f) removing said water from said detergent particle, whereby the surface area of said detergent particle of step (f) is at least 10% less than that of the particle core of step (e).

11. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said particle core comprises a blend of anionic surfactant and dry detergent ingredients.

12. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said blend of anionic surfactant and dry detergent ingredients is selected from the group consisting of detergent agglomerates, spray-dried particles, detergent flakes and mixtures thereof.

13. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said coating mixer is selected from the group consisting of low speed mixers, fluid bed mixers, and combinations thereof.

14. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein said coating mixer is a fluid bed mixer.

15. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonate salts, alkali metal sulfate salts and mixtures thereof.
16. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is the double salt $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4:\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ in a weight ratio of Na_2SO_4 to Na_2CO_3 of from about 80:20 to about 20:80, whereby the surface area of said detergent particle of step (f) is at least 20% less than that of the particle core of step (e).
17. (New) The process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein said step of providing said aqueous coating solution further comprises the step of spraying said coating solution into said coating mixer.